

# **Ft. Drum – Silviculture**

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## **LEAD:**

Having forest forever... That's the motto at Ft. Drum Forestry.

Environmental Correspondent Jesse McGill takes us north to the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division to see the forestry program supporting the Army's mission, while practicing sound stewardship.

Silviculture.... The art and science of managing a forest to yield the products the land owner wants .In this case, the landowner happens to be the U-S Army. And at Ft. Drum, their award winning Natural Resources programs are doing just that.

## **Jason Wagner/Forester:**

"The primary mission for the forestry program at Ft. Drum is to provide a forested environment that meets the requirements that the current mission training scenario needs. At the same time, we need to ensure that we are doing long term management of the forest to make sure that we have a viable forest well into the future."

## **Richard LeClerc/Chief, Natural Resources Branch:**

"What we're talking about is long-term, the big picture. That's what we have to bring to this. We're going to ensure that the trainer gets his job done that he

needs to get done. But we're also going to ensure that that land, those resources are available for the next trainer behind him, and the next trainer behind him."

The Fort Drum Natural Resources Branch has come up with a way to manage the forest, while meeting the training requirements of the soldiers. It's called the Natural Resources Management Unit framework.

**Rod Voss/Forester:**

"The importance of natural resource management unit is it allows us to manage our large land base, 107 thousand acres, on a landscape level...

... It allows the forest management program to better manage the forest to give the soldier the training scenarios that they require."

The forestry program is essential to the training of the soldier. If a trainer requires trees to be a certain distance apart so the soldier can learn how to drive on rough terrain, then that's what they get. If they need a high canopy for overhead cover, then the Forestry program can accommodate that as well.

**SGT William Scott/Alpha Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain**

**Div.:**

"I like the woods here at Ft. Drum, a lot of the area is open in the wood line."

**Jason Wagner/Forester:**

“We use different silvicultural techniques to provide different scenarios across the installation for the trainer.”

The 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, being the most deployed unit in the Army needs the versatility of Fort Drum, to practice operations and training exercises year round.

**Richard LeClerc/Chief; Natural Resources Branch:**

“We are in the business of providing long-term stewardship on military installations.”

**Rod Voss/Forester:**

“We want to provide adequate training grounds for the troops, but we also want to make sure we provide for sustainability into the future. We want to make sure where we have forest, we always have forest... We have forest after forest, forever.”

Fort Drum Natural Resources, showing us how to provide environmental stewardship to meet the common needs of our Army.

From Fort Drum, New York, I'm Jesse McGill.